

Child and Family Services



Purpose

Child welfare and juvenile justice services are services and interventions for children, youth, and families, designed to improve safety, permanency, well-being, and community safety.

Who Is Helped

Child welfare services are provided to children and families who are either at risk of abuse or who have experienced abuse and have been adjudicated a child in need of assistance. In addition, services are available to youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system and are employed or going to school.

A majority of children who have been abused are five years old or younger and are victims of denial of critical care.

In SFY14, 28,835 children were at risk and/or were abused. Of those 9,239 (32 percent) were the victims of abuse and received child welfare services.

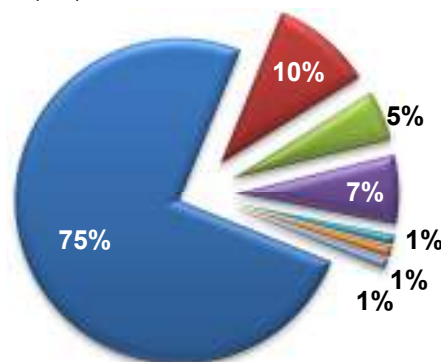
On January 1, 2014, the department implemented Differential Response (DR). DR is a child welfare approach in which one of two pathways, family assessment or child abuse assessment, is assigned to accepted allegations of child abuse based on risk associated with child abuse and neglect.

- Low risk families receive a family assessment and high risk families receive a child abuse assessment.
- Safety and a recommendation for services occur in both types of assessments.
- Child abuse assessments result in a finding of abuse and possible placement on the central abuse registry.
- From January 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014, 7,874 (66%) of accepted allegations received a child abuse assessment and 4,039 (34%) received a family assessment.
- Prior to January 1, 2014, all accepted allegations would have received a child abuse assessment.

An average of 404 youth per year age out of the foster care system. An average of 278 youth have accessed Aftercare services for life skills training and limited financial support.

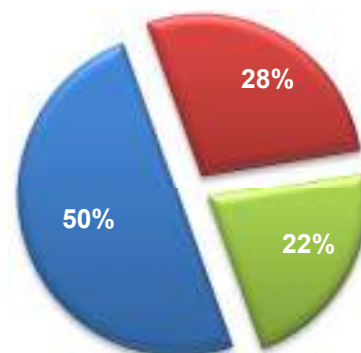
Type of Abuse SFY14

- Denial of critical care / neglect (75%)
- Physical abuse (10%)
- Sexual abuse (5%)
- Presence of illegal drugs (7%)
- Exposure to manufacturing meth (1%)
- Allows access to registered sex offender (1%)
- Other (1%)



Abuse by Age SFY14

- 5 or younger (50%)
- 6 to 10 (28%)
- 11 and older (22%)



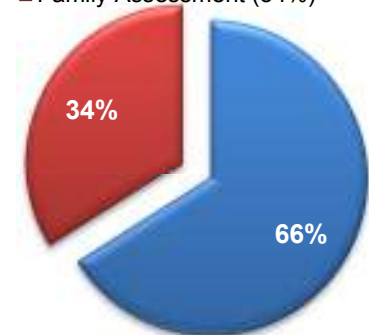
Juvenile justice services are provided to children and their families if they are either at risk of continued delinquent behavior, have committed a delinquent act and have been adjudicated as a delinquent, or have been certified by the chief juvenile court officer as eligible for court-ordered services.

In SFY14,

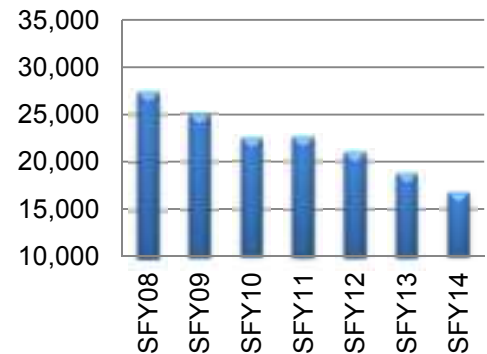
- Juvenile Court Services (JCS) received 16,742 referrals against juveniles.
 - Less than 25 percent of these referrals resulted in a formal request for a delinquency petition. A vast majority were resolved through provision of services without court involvement.

Differential Response Assessments SFY14

- Child Abuse Assessment (66%)
- Family Assessment (34%)



Referrals to Juvenile Court Services



- ✓ *Parents of children who are at risk and/or experience neglect often have mental health, substance abuse, or domestic violence challenges.*
- ✓ *Of founded abuse cases in SFY14, 4 percent were sexual abuse, compared to 7 percent nationally (Child Maltreatment data 2012).*
- ✓ *Seventy percent of the youth who had violations on or before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year had no new law violations by the end of the school year.*

Services

Child Welfare Services protect children, and preserve and strengthen families through the least intrusive, least restrictive means possible.

Services include:

Early intervention and prevention services such as Community Care and Decategorization services strengthen families by building on the family's resources and developing supports in the community.

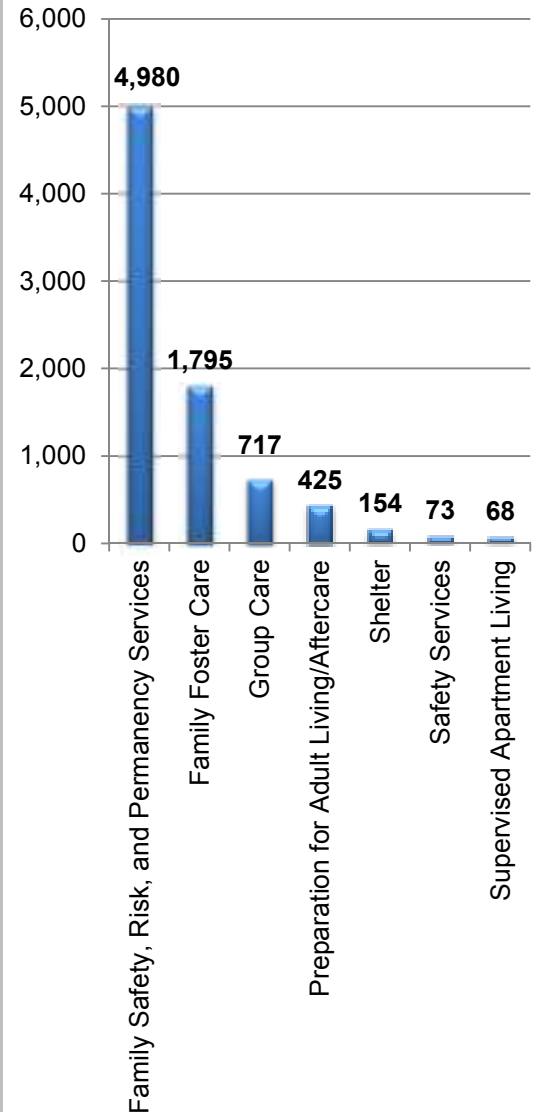
In-home services improve parenting skills to safely maintain the child in the home.

- There are 11 family centered providers that served 5,053 families in SFY14. The 5,053 included 73 Safety Plan Services provided during child abuse assessments and 4,980 Family, Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services (FSRP) provided to DHS eligible cases.

Out of home services provide a safe environment when a child is not able to remain in the home or able to live with an extended family member. Services are provided to address both the parents' needs and the needs of the child.

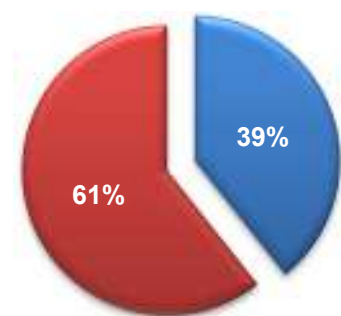
- The Parent Partners program provides peer mentoring for families in the child welfare system in order to improve engagement between families and the system, shorten lengths of stay for children in care, and maximize available community supports and services to reduce family re-entry into the child welfare system. Following program expansion in SFY14, there is now a parent partner presence statewide.
- Family foster care services are designed to provide a temporary safe environment while parents are addressing the issues that put the children at-risk.
 - There are 2,141 foster families. In SFY14, 1,795 children were served on average each month in family foster care.
- Foster group care services are designed to treat children whose behavior is too severe to enable them to live safely in a less restrictive setting like a foster home.
 - There are 15 group care contractors with 1,216 available beds located statewide.
 - Both DHS and JCS utilize foster group care services.
 - In SFY14, DHS placed 711 children in group care, while JCS placed 1,097.

Average Number of Clients Served Monthly by Program in SFY14



Group Care Total Served in SFY14

■ DHS (39%) ■ JCS (61%)

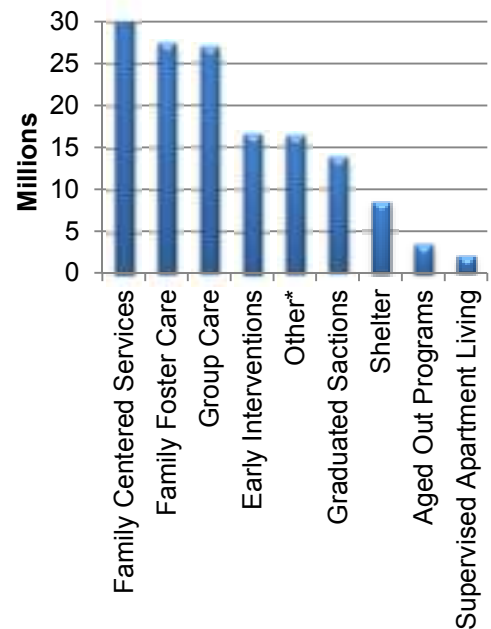


- Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) is an array of short term and temporary interventions that range from the least restrictive approaches that can be used to avoid out-of-home placement (e.g., family conflict mediations or in-home interventions) to more restrictive services including emergency juvenile shelter care.
 - There are 13 CWES contractors that offer 16 CWES juvenile shelters. These contracts provide for 244 beds although additional beds can be purchased up to the maximum number licensed (currently 330).
 - Both DHS and JCS utilize CWES.
- Transition services support youth age 18-21 who aged out of foster care. Emphasis is placed on life skills, housing, employment, education, budgeting, and relationships. Youth receive individualized services from case managers, called Self Sufficiency Advocates.
 - A network of nine child welfare providers comprise the Iowa Aftercare Services Network, providing services to 425 youth monthly.
- State legislation enacted in 2014 added funds to expand aftercare to youth aging out of detention and the State Training School for Boys. An estimated 88 youth are expected to be served in SFY15. SFY15 funding includes providing children who are placed at the State Training school campus the opportunity to be involved in the foster care youth council (Achieving Maximum Potential).

Juvenile Justice Services ensure public safety by addressing delinquent behaviors.

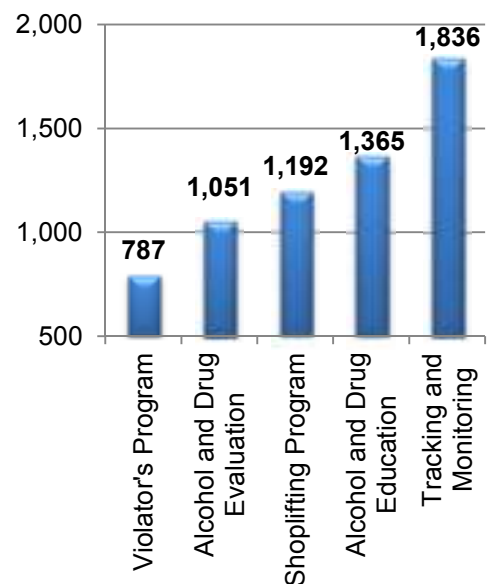
- Graduated Sanctions include four specific service programs: life skills; school-based supervision; supervised community treatment; tracking and monitoring, and outreach.
 - There are 120 graduated sanctions contracts with community providers to provide the services listed above.
 - Juvenile Court/School Liaisons are located in 128 Iowa schools within 81 school districts.
 - Tracking and monitoring services are provided by 17 social service agencies.
 - 2,794 tracking and monitoring cases closed in SFY14.
- Out of home services include foster care, detention, and the State Training School in Eldora.

Child Welfare Dollars by Program SFY14



*Other expenditures include the child abuse hotline, medical exams for children potentially abused, & training

Top Five Juvenile Justice Services Completed in SFY14



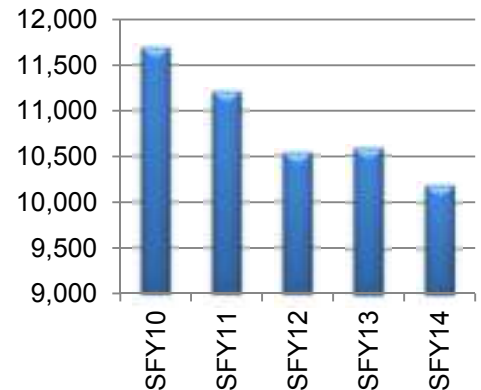
- Youth needing out of home care utilize the foster care services described in child welfare services above.
- Ten Iowa detention centers provide services to an average 135 youth per day. These centers provide temporary care in a restrictive manner designed to ensure continued custody of the child until final disposition of the child's case.
- The State Training School houses an average 122 delinquent boys daily.

Medicaid Behavioral Intervention Services

(BHIS) are available, in addition to child welfare and juvenile justice services, for eligible children to improve social and behavioral functioning.

- BHIS are provided by a network of 93 providers many of whom also provide other child welfare and juvenile justice services.

Total Children Served in Out of Home Services



- ✓ *In SFY14, 4,857 parents/adults received services targeted to children at-risk of abuse.*
- ✓ *In SFY14, 73 percent of child victims remained in their home while receiving services to ensure safety.*
- ✓ *Approximately 34 percent of children who are removed from their home are in the care of an extended family member.*
- ✓ *In SFY13, 94 percent of youth participating in aftercare reported having a safe and stable place to live. 95 percent reported having one or more supportive relationships.*
- ✓ *Increasingly, Juvenile Court Services uses research-proven family and community-based services, often times without the formality of a court order, to address the behavior in a community setting and avoid lengthy and costly court interventions and out-of-home placements.*
- ✓ *The number of group care beds is capped and the DHS Service Area Managers and the Chief Juvenile Court Officers jointly manage group care resources.*

Goals & Strategies

Goal: Children will be safe from abuse.

Strategies:

- Provide best practice information and training to keep children safe from abuse.
- Enhance engagement with families to increase service provision.

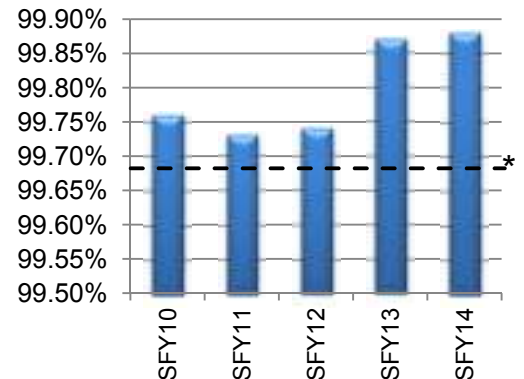
Goal: Children will achieve permanency.

Strategies:

- Provide staff training on how to safely reduce out-of-home placements.
- Provide statewide family team decision making for all children who cannot remain safely in their home.
- If a child must be removed for safety reasons, attempt to reunify quickly to a safe environment.
- Provide supports to assist the family and child while empowering family decision-making.

Results:

Children Safe from Maltreatment in Foster Care



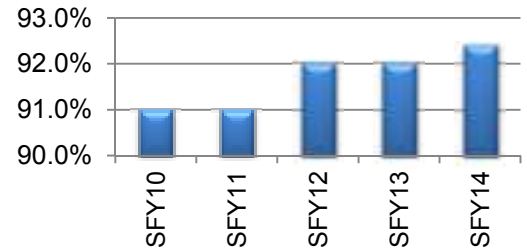
*National Benchmark 99.68%

Goal: Children will experience a positive sense of well-being.

Strategies:

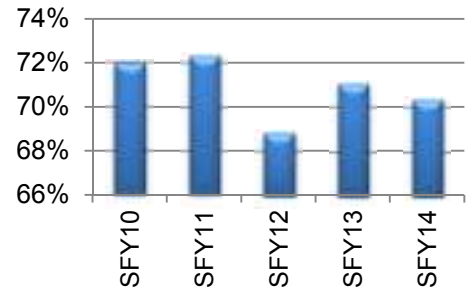
- Continue systemic training activities related to the effect of early childhood trauma on growth and development.
- Continue work on disproportionality of minority children and youth in the child welfare/juvenile justice system.
- Continue efforts to increase educational stability.

Children Safe from Re-abuse*



*National Benchmark 94.6%

Reunified Within 12 Months*



*National Benchmark 75.2%

- ✓ *DHS has established performance based contracts with child welfare providers that align with Children and Family Services Federal outcomes.*
- ✓ *Iowa has a strong public/private partnership who recognize that collaboration and shared accountability will lead to positive outcomes for our children and families.*
- ✓ *In SFY14, 3 percent of Children and Family Services funding is used for prevention.*
- ✓ *In SFY14, 257 participants from diverse backgrounds were trained on Race: The Power of Illusion.*

Cost of Services

As described above, Child and Family Services includes a broad range of services and interventions for children, youth and families at risk. The average cost of services and interventions also varies. Children, youth and families may receive multiple services and interventions over the course of a year. The following information provides actual costs for SFY13.

The average annual cost per family for Community Care service is \$1,190.

The average cost per child for Family Safety Risk and Permanency service is \$5,056. This cost is per average 10-month episode of service.

The average annual cost per child for Family Foster Care service is \$14,887.

The average annual cost per child for Foster Group Care service is \$37,121.

The average cost per child for an average 15-day CWES/Shelter stay is \$2,216.

The average annual cost per youth for Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) is \$10,832.

The average annual cost per youth for Supervised Apartment Living (SAL) is \$31,997.

The average cost per child/youth for graduated sanctions, adolescent tracking and monitoring service is \$945. This cost is per average three-month episode of service.

The average cost per child/youth for graduated sanctions, supervised community treatment service is \$2,955. This cost is per average three-month episode of service.

Funding Sources

The total state general fund request for SFY16 is about \$97.0 million. Here is a breakdown of funding for child welfare:

- SFY16 total budget is \$159,181,118
 - \$52,989,634 is federal
 - TANF: \$32,084,430
 - SSBG: \$ 820,381
 - Other: \$20,084,823
 - Has IV-E and IV-B parts 1 & 2
 - \$97,020,329 is State General Fund
 - \$ 3,734,069 is other State General Fund
 - \$ 5,437,086 is other Recoveries

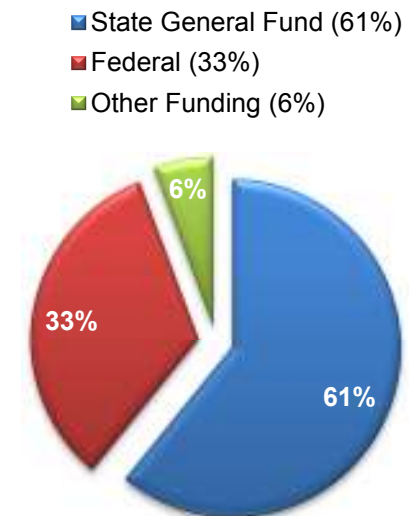
The FFY16 FMAP is 54.35%.

- SFY17 total budget is \$159,181,118
 - \$52,848,583 is federal
 - TANF: \$32,084,430
 - SSBG: \$ 820,381
 - Other: \$19,943,772
 - Has IV-E and IV-B parts 1 & 2
 - \$97,161,380 is State General Fund
 - \$ 3,734,069 is other State General Fund
 - \$5,437,086 is other Recoveries

The FFY17 FMAP is 53.83%.

- ✓ *States are subject to financial penalties ranging from 1 percent to 5 percent of federal IV-B and IV-E funding if they fail to meet federal expectations, including annual targets for monthly visits with children in foster care. Iowa is currently in the 1st quarter of a Program Improvement Plan.*

SFY16 Funding



SFY16 & SFY17 Budget Drivers

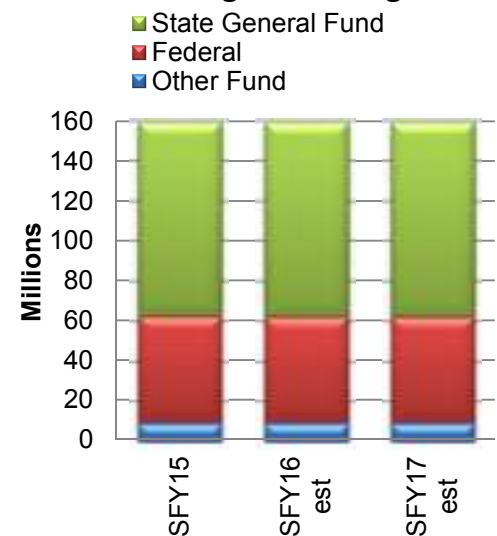
The total SFY16 Child and Family Services budget request reflects a \$695,412 (less than 1 percent) general fund decrease from the SFY15 Enacted Appropriation.

The total SFY17 Child and Family Services budget request reflects a \$554,361 (less than 1 percent) general fund decrease from the SFY15 Enacted Appropriation.

The key budget drivers of the SFY16 changes are:

- The annual change in the federal fund match rate (FMAP) will cause the state share to increase. The FFY15 FMAP is 55.54 percent. That rate declines to 54.35 percent in FFY16 and 53.83 percent in FFY17.
- Funding for children adjudicated as delinquent or CINA – IJH is reduced by \$1,000,000.

Total Budget Funding Mix



Legal Basis

Federal:

- Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, and under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
- The Federal government sets specific requirements and performance expectations, which are measured through the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Under the CFSR, states are expected to meet national standards on 7 outcomes related to child safety, permanency, and well-being. (45 CFR 1355.32-37)

State:

- Iowa Code, Chapters 233, 232B, 233, 234, 235, 235A, 237, 237B, and 238